DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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GENEVA FACTS

The first ten days of the Geneva Conference brought evidence of agreement between Britain, France, USA and USSR on the necessity for a European Security Pact and German reunification: at the same time it demonstrated considerable differences on how these ends should be achieved.

The western foreign ministers proposed that Germany should be reunited and included in NATO: simultaneously a European Security Pact should be signed.

The Soviet Foreign Minister suggested a Security Pact now; strict limitation of armaments in Germany; and the formation of an all-German Council.

The conference was still meeting as we went to press. On this and the following pages we bring details of the negotiations to date.

This is a Dull Issue

This issue of GERMAN REPORT will strike some readers as being very dull. A large part of the space is devoted to documents, plans, proposals, and to a full summary of the negotiations on European security and Germany at the Geneva Conference.

We have done our best to condense and cut the excess verbiage, but even what remains makes rather heavy reading.

But for anyone really interested in the German problem, and in a peaceful future, it is essential reading. The basic question which is at stake in Geneva is whether a militarist Germany is going to be allowed to arise again, and to plunge the world once more into war; or whether a European security system can be devised which will ensure peace and provide the basis for the formation of a united Germany dedicated to peace.

In this issue we present the documents and the proposals made on the question. Read them and draw your own conclusions.

CONFERENCE LOG (1)

Day-by-day Tally of Proposals and Arguments

October 27th:

The Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers opened with speeches by all four Foreign Ministers. The western ministers confined themselves to general phrases on the necessity to maintain the "spirit of Geneva".

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov stressed the overwhelming importance of European security, stating: "Both the first and second world wars began in Europe. These wars, unleashed by militarist Germany, brought the nations of Europe untold suffering and destruction which have not yet been made good.

"Particularly great has been the suffering borne by the people of the Soviet Union and the people of Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, France, Belgium and the other countries of Europe which had been attacked by the forces of German militarism. We know the considerable losses suffered as a result of these wars also by the German people.

"In view of this lesson of history and the need to establish certain guarantees of a peaceful and tranquil life for the states of Europe, we should make every effort to achieve success in bringing about security in Europe... It must be pointed out that the chief obstacle to security in Europe is the existence of military groupings. The beginning in this respect was made by the North Atlantic Block...

"We assume that in settling the German problem, reliable guarantees should be established, so that German militarism may not rise again to threaten the peace of Europe... Consideration of the German problem inevitably poses the question as to which course the development of a united Germany should take—either a militarist state integrated in the western military grouping, or a peaceful and democratic state outside military blocks. Now that the remilitarisation of West Germany is going ahead under the Paris Agreements, new obstacles have arisen to a settlement of the German problem.

"Under present conditions an appropriate settlement can be brought about only gradually through a reduction of tension in Europe with the establishment of a reliable system of collective security, and as a result of a rapprochement

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and increasing cooperation between the two parts of Germany...

"Under present conditions, when there are two German states with different social systems, the settlement of the German problem must not be sought at the expense of the interests of one part of Germany, at the expense of the social achievements of the working people of the German Democratic Republic, which are of the greatest importance for the German people as a whole. It would be quite unrealistic to try to bring about the unification of Germany through a mechanical merger. The settlement of the German problem is something to be handled, above all, by the Germans themselves. Our task is to assist them in this respect, rather than to impose upon them any plans of our own."

October 28th:

The western foreign ministers presented their proposals for Germany and European security, which foresaw:

(1) The reunification of Germany through foreign-controlled free elections; (2) the integration of united Germany in NATO; (3) semi-demilitarised zones on both sides of the eastern frontiers of united Germany, some hundreds of miles east of the present east-west demarkation line in Europe; (4) a security pact providing that neither side should attack the other.

The Soviet Foreign Minister presented his proposals for a European security pact, open to all European states and the United States, all members of the pact being pledged to come to the assistance of any victim of aggression. Both existing German states should adhere to the treaty, and the existence of the treaty would facilitate reunification. NATO, the Paris Agreements, and the East European Defence Pact should all be liquidated. (A full summary of the provisions of the western and eastern proposals is given on page 164.)

British Foreign Minister Macmillan stressed the western view that Germany should first be united and integrated in NATO, and that a European Security Treaty could then be concluded.

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov, replying, stated: "This proposal would lead not only to the preservation of the existing military groupings in Europe but also to their consolidation. The proposal clearly envisages German reunification only on such terms that the whole of Germany should be remilitarised... It is not possible to agree to the remilitarisation of Germany either at once or by stages, since this is incompatible with European security. The three power proposal would mean that the Soviet Union... should assist in the resurrection of German militarism... One can hardly regard this proposal seriously... As to the German question, the Soviet delegation will submit detailed proposals on this question at an appropriate stage of our work."

October 29th:

The western foreign ministers repeated their arguments that German reunification must come first, and Molotov reiterated the Soviet viewpoint that European security should come first and provide the basis for later German reunification. He stressed that the directive given to the Foreign Ministers by their government heads had called for "interested parties" to be heard when the German problem was discussed. "As soon as the conference gets down to concrete discussions on this subject, a decision must be taken on participation of representatives of the German people" he said.

He rejected claims made by the western delegates that NATO and Western European Union were collective security organisations. "If one makes this claim, then one must claim that the Entente Cordiale and the Triple Entente before the First World War, and the Anti-Comintern Pact before the Second World War were also collective security organisations."

October 31st:

After discussing point 3 on the agenda—the development of closer East-West contacts in all fields—the Foreign Ministers continued their discussion of European security and Germany. Molotov proposed that Prime Minister Grotewohl of the German Democratic Republic and Chancellor Adenauer of the German Federal Republic, or their representatives, should be invited to Geneva to participate in the discussions on the German problem.

"Now that two German states exist, it would be abnormal to take decisions on Germany without the participation of the representatives of the German people" Molotov stated. The western delegates replied that they were ready to invite Chancellor Adenauer, but not ready to invite Prime Minister Grotewohl.

Molotov then presented to the conference a new draft for a provisional European security pact. This was a compromise plan including some features of the western proposal. Under the new plan, all members of the Western European Union and of the Warsaw Treaty, including both the East German and West German states, should sign this provisional pact, pledging each other aid in the case of armed attack. The new pact would be in addition to the existing pacts such as NATO and the Warsaw Treaty and would not supersede them. (Full summary on page 165.)

Molotov also presented new proposals for a zone of limited armaments between East and West. He pointed out that the western proposal for such a zone along the frontier between a reunited Germany and Poland was unrealistic since this was not the actual and existing line between East and West in Europe.

Molotov proposed that the semi-demilitarised zone should comprise the entire territory of the two existing Germany states, plus the territory of the neighbouring states or some of them. A maximum figure would also be fixed for the troops of the big four to be stationed in this area. (The full text of this important proposal, which would imply a strict control of armaments throughout a large part of central Europe is given on page 165.)

British Foreign Minister Macmillan stated that the Soviet plan held out hopes of advance at some points, but the plan was based upon the division of Germany and the West had made it clear that they believed there could be no European security while that division persisted.

PEACE PLAN— WAR STOCKS FALL

On October 31st Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov proposed a provisional security plan for Europe, under which armaments would be severely limited in both parts of Germany. On November 1st, arms stocks on the West German stock exchanges fell sharply "owing to the bad news from Geneva", the newspaper "Frankfurter Allgemeine" reported on November 2nd. Thyssen Steel dropped eight points, Bayer Chemicals (IG Farben) dropped seven points, and Rhine Steel dropped twelve points.

"FORM ALL-GERMAN COUNCIL"

East German Proposal for Geneva

The Parliaments of East and West Germany should form an All-German Council to implement cooperation between the two parts of Germany in all fields, the Government of the German Democratic Republic proposed on October 31st.

The proposal was made in a memorandum addressed to the foreign ministers of the four powers meeting in Geneva. The memorandum proposed that this All-German Council should work out proposals on such subjects as internal German trade, freedom of movement throughout Germany, the currency question, postal questions, and scientific, cultural and sport relations.

The memorandum did not propose in detail how the All-German Council should be composed, but suggested that the parliaments of the two German states should work out the details in joint discussion.

The East German memorandum called on the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva to take steps to establish a European security system conducive to the solution of the German problem; and asked the conference to support all measures which could lead to an understanding between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, since this was the only road to German reunification.

The memorandum also outlined the view of the Government of the German Democratic Republic on the form which a future reunified Germany should take. Main points of this preview were:

1. Reunified Germany will have no room for militarists and those interested in war. There must be guarantees against the misuse of economic power for purposes of imperialist warfare.

2. Reunified Germany must be freed from the rule of militarist junkerdom: this entails the putting into effect of the land reform agreed to by the four foreign ministers at the Moscow Conference of 1947.

3. The democratic and social achievements of the working people in the German Democratic Republic must be preserved and developed in a reunified Germany. In reunified Germany nationally-owned property will exist side-by-side with cooperatively-owned and capitalistically-owned property. Full co-determination rights for the trade unions will help to assure that capital is not used for anti-popular purposes.

4. Reunified Germany will guarantee full equal rights for women, and full opportunities for development and education for youth. Freedom of religion and conscience will be guaranteed.

5. Reunified Germany will be fully sovereign. No foreign troops or foreign military bases will remain on German soil; Germany will maintain its own national armed forces for defensive purposes.

November 2nd:

British Foreign Minister Macmillan stated that the west could not approach the problem of European security except on the basis of a reunited Germany, and rejected all appeals to dissolve NATO.

US Foreign Minister Dulles stressed similarities between the latest eastern and western proposals on security, which both foresaw a renunciation of force and of assistance to any aggressor. Both proposals, he said, contemplated a limitation of forces, provisions for consultation and the right of individual and collective self-defence.

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov reiterated that his government favoured the reunification of Germany through free all-German elections, but added: "We cannot ignore the actual situation, and we are ignoring it if we propose the mechanical reunification of two states with such differing social systems. The restoration of German unity cannot be allowed at the cost of the political, social and economic achievements of the German Democratic Republic. We should not try to impose anything unacceptable on the German Federal Republic, and the same holds good for the German Democratic Republic."

Molotov then proposed the establishment of an All-German Council of representatives of the parliaments of East and West Germany which should consider all questions of East-West cooperation in Germany and create the conditions necessary for free elections. (Full details of this plan on page 165.)

In connection with this plan, Molotov suggested that the mass of foreign troops should be withdrawn from Germany within a three month period, leaving only strictly limited detachments. This would help to provide the conditions necessary for a solution of the German problem.

November 3rd:

The western foreign ministers unanimously rejected the plan for the formation of an All-German Council, which they described as a method for prolonging the partitioning of Germany. Dulles stated that a prolongation of German partitioning would "bring about a rebirth of excessive nationalism in Germany."

Molotov replied that his proposals for an All-German Council were not ultimative. It was quite possible to discuss various particulars of the plan, and he did not claim that it could not be improved or altered.

November 4th:

Dulles presented the conference with a new plan under which all-German elections to a National Assembly should be held in September 1956. Molotov replied that this plan simply dealt with the technical method for holding elections in Germany: "We can easily reach agreement on such organisational questions when we have once settled the basic question, that of European security." He regretted that the western foreign ministers had not expressed their opinion on the proposal he had made on the previous day for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany.

The four foreign ministers agreed to meet again on November 8th to continue their discussions on European security and the German problem.

(This log will be continued in the next issue.)

GENEVA DOCUMENTS

Western Plan for Security & Elections

Here are the main points of the western proposals on Germany and European Security, presented to the Geneva Conference on October 28th:

Preamble

". . . Free elections leading to the formation of a single government for the whole of Germany are the right way of ensuring full participation of the German people in the solution of the German problem . . . Without German unity, any system of European security would be an illusion. The division of Germany can only perpetuate friction and insecurity as well as grave injustice. France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are not prepared to enter into a system of European security which, as in the Soviet proposals put forward at Geneva (in July, ed.), does not end the division of Germany . . ."

"To remove any possible grounds for Soviet refusal to reunify Germany promptly, France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are prepared to take further steps to meet the concern expressed by the Soviet Government. They accordingly propose the conclusion of a treaty in the terms set forth below, concurrently with the conclusion of an agreement to reunify Germany under the Eden plan . . ."

"The treaty would enter into force only in conjunction with the reunification of Germany . . . The final stage would become effective when a reunified Germany decides to enter NATO and the Western European Union . . ."

The main terms of the proposed treaty were as follows:

1. Each party to the treaty would undertake to settle by peaceful means any international dispute in which it might be involved.

2. Each party would agree to withhold assistance to any aggressor and bring the aggression to the attention of the United Nations.

3. "In a zone comprising areas of comparable size and depth and importance on both sides of a line of demarkation between a reunified Germany and the Eastern European countries, levels for armed forces would be specified so as to establish a military balance which would contribute to European security and help to relieve the burden of armaments. There would be appropriate provisions for the maintenance of this balance. In parts of the zone which lie closest to the line of demarkation, there might be special measures relating to the disposition of military forces and installations."

4. "The parties would provide information on an agreed progressive basis on their armed forces in the zone. There would be agreement on progressive procedures of mutual inspection to verify such data and to warn against any preparation for surprise attack."

5. ". . . to give further protection against surprise attack, provision could be made to establish:

a) In the western part of the zone mentioned in paragraph 3 a radar warning system operated by the Soviet Union and the other Eastern members of the treaty.

b) A like system in the eastern part of that zone operated by the NATO members of the treaty."

6. "There would be suitable provision for consultation among the parties to implement the treaty."

7. ". . . No party would continue to station forces in the territory of any other party without the latter's consent, and upon request of the party concerned any party would withdraw its forces within a stated period, unless these forces are present in the territory concerned under collective defence arrangements."

8. All parties to the treaty would take appropriate action in the case of armed attack in Europe.

9. The provisions of the treaty would come into effect progressively.

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The main points of the Eden Plan for German Reunification, associated with the Western security plan quoted above, are as follows:

1. Free and secret elections should be held throughout Germany, under an election law to be prepared by the Four powers, in consultation with German experts. The draft election law must guarantee freedom of movement throughout Germany, immunity of candidates, freedom from arbitrary arrest, freedom of association, freedom of the press and secrecy of the vote. **The election should be supervised at all levels by a commission composed of representatives of the four powers, with or without the participation of neutrals, assisted by Germans in a consultative capacity.**

2. These all-German elections should establish an all-German national assembly. Between the end of the elections and full assumption of control by an all-German government, part of the foreign supervisory machinery would remain in force.

3. The national assembly should draft a constitution, prepare the nucleus of all-German executive organs, and open preliminary negotiations on a peace treaty.

4. Immediately after the acceptance of the constitution, an all-German government will be formed. The national assembly shall then determine how the two governments at present existing in Germany shall be brought to an end.

First Soviet European Security Plan

Here are the main points of the first Soviet proposals for a European security pact, presented to the Geneva Conference on October 28th:

Preamble

"For the purpose of insuring peace and security and of preventing aggression against any state in Europe;

". . . Having in view that the establishment of a system of collective security in Europe would facilitate the earliest possible settlement of the German problem through the unification of Germany on a peaceful and democratic basis;

"European states, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, conclude a general European treaty on collective security in Europe, the basic provisions of which are as follows:

1. "All European states, irrespective of their social systems, and the United States of America as well, may become parties to the treaty provided they recognise the purpose and assume the obligations set forth in the treaty.

"Pending the formation of a united, peace-loving democratic German state, the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic may be parties to the treaty enjoying equal rights with other parties thereto. It is understood that after the unification of Germany the united German state may be a party to the treaty under the general provisions thereof."

"The conclusion of the treaty on collective security in Europe shall not affect the competence of the four powers to deal with the German problem, which shall be settled in accordance with decisions previously taken by the four powers.

2. The parties to the treaty undertake to refrain from aggression against one another, and to settle any dispute in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Whenever in the view of any party there is danger of armed attack in Europe, the parties shall consult one another to take effective steps to maintain security in Europe.

4. An armed attack in Europe against one party by any state shall be deemed to be an attack against all parties. Each of the parties shall assist the state or states so attacked by all the means at its disposal, including the use of armed force.

5. The parties shall discuss as soon as possible the procedure for granting such assistance.

6. The parties to the treaty shall immediately inform the Security Council of the United Nations of any action taken or envisaged.

7. The parties to the treaty undertake not to participate in any coalition or alliance or to conclude agreements the objectives of which are contrary to the purpose of the treaty.

8. The parties to the treaty undertake to promote broad economic and cultural cooperation.

9. The parties shall hold regular conferences; establish a permanent consultative political committee; and set up a military consultative organ.

10. The parties to the treaty shall invite the Government of the Chinese People's Republic to designate representatives as observers to the organs established under the treaty.

11. The present treaty shall not impair obligations of European states under existing treaties, provided they are in conformity with the present treaty.

(cont. on next page)

12. The parties to the treaty agree that during the first period (two or three years) of the implementation of the present treaty, they shall not be relieved of the obligations assumed by them under existing treaties and agreements.

13. Pending the conclusion of agreements on the reduction of armaments, the prohibition of atomic weapons and the withdrawal of foreign troops, the parties to the treaty undertake not to increase their armed forces.

14. The parties to the treaty agree that on the expiration of an agreed time limit from the entry into force of the present treaty, the Warsaw Treaty of May 14th 1955, the Paris Agreements of October 23rd 1954, and the North Atlantic Treaty of April 4th 1949, shall become ineffective.

15. The duration of the treaty shall be 50 years.

Soviet Proposal for Limited Arms Zone

Here is the full text of the Soviet proposals on the creation of a zone of limited armaments between East and West, presented to the Geneva Conference on October 31th:

"1. The zone of limitation and inspection of armaments must include the territory of the German Federal Republic, the territory of the German Democratic Republic, and the territory of neighbouring states or some of them.

"2. The agreement on the question of this zone must lay down the maximal strength of the armed forces of the USA, USSR, Britain and France stationed on the territories of other states in this zone. The question of this numerical strength will have to be considered further.

"3. The obligations concerning the limitation and control of armaments which are to be accepted by the states concerned on the basis of a respective agreement, shall be agreed with those states which can take a free decision on this matter in accordance with their sovereign rights.

"4. For the fulfillment of the obligations concerning the limitation of armaments in those territories which form part of the zone, a joint inspectorate of forces and armaments will be created by the states which are parties to the agreement."

Second Soviet Security Plan

Here are the main points of the second Soviet proposals for a provisional European security pact, presented to the Geneva Conference on October 31st:

Article 1

"The treaty partners pledge themselves not to use force of arms against one another, and to refrain from the threat of force in their mutual relations. They will settle all questions of dispute by peaceful means."

Article 2

"If any partner to the treaty is attacked, all treaty partners shall give that state every help, including armed assistance."

Article 3

"The treaty partners pledge themselves not to give direct or indirect help to the aggressor state, under any pretext."

Article 4

The treaty partners will consult together in case of the danger of an armed attack, and take effective measures to deal with such a threat.

Article 5

The treaty partners will establish the necessary organ or organs for the purposes of consultation.

Article 6

The treaty partners agree that the stipulations of this treaty do not infringe upon the responsibilities assumed under existing treaties and agreements.

Article 7

This treaty does not limit the right of individual or collective self defence as defined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in the case of an armed attack.

Article 8

This treaty is of a provisional character, and will remain in force until it is superseded by a new and more far-reaching European security pact.

Soviet Plan for All-German Council

Here is the full text of the Soviet proposal for the formation of an All-German Council, submitted to the Geneva Conference on November 2nd:

"Guided by the endeavour to support many-sided cooperation between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, and the creation of the conditions necessary for the solution of the German problem and the reunification of Germany through free elections in accordance with the national interests of the German people and the interests of European security, the Foreign Ministers of the USSR, USA, Britain and France declare:

"Under the prevailing conditions by which the German people are robbed of the possibility of living in a united German state, it becomes ever more urgent to obtain the establishment of cooperation between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, which would ease the solution of the task of achieving the national reunification of Germany. This aim could be met by an agreement between the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic on the formation of an all-German organ for the coordination of their aspirations in the political, economic and cultural life of the German people, and the cooperation with other states for the maintenance of peace.

"Such a representative organ of the German people could be an All-German Council, formed on the basis of the following principles:

"1. An All-German Council will be formed from representatives of the parliaments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic as a consultative organ for the consideration of questions in the solution of which the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic are interested.

"2. In this All-German Council, mixed commissions of representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic will be set up for questions of economic and cultural relations between the two German states; for questions of the German currency, inner-German payments, customs, posts and telecommunications, transport and other questions.

"3. The All-German Council should make agreements on the questions of the strength, armament and stationing of those units which are necessary for the protection of the frontiers and the territories of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

"4. The All-German Council should make agreements on the questions of the participation of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic in measures for strengthening European security, and should discuss with mutual agreement questions connected with the creation of the conditions necessary for the reunification of Germany as a peaceloving and democratic state.

„The Foreign Ministers of the USSR, USA, Britain and France express the hope that the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic will make the necessary efforts to reach agreement on the establishment of an All-German Council."

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COMPLETE FACTORIES FOR SALE

Democratic Germany's Big Export

The supply of whole factories to countries in all parts of the world has recently become an important part of the export trade of the German Democratic Republic. This is shown by statistics now released of export contracts concluded at recent Leipzig Trade Fairs.

At the 1955 Spring Trade Fair, the German Democratic Republic concluded export contracts for entire factories, complete with all the necessary equipment, valued at over 140 million roubles—over 35 million dollars. The contracts included the supply of a textile combine to Turkey; a chlorine alkaline electrolysis plant and a large automobile service station to Syria; a sulphuric acid plant to Rumania; a concrete plant and plastics factory to Poland; several concrete plants to the Soviet Union; and 16 power stations to China.

In addition preliminary contracts have been concluded with Egypt for two textile mills and a porcelain factory, and with Syria for a rolling mill and an accumulator works. Negotiations are in progress for the supply of cement plants to Syria and India; textile mills to Turkey and Syria; sugar factories to India, Jordan, Greece, Egypt and Argentina; and canneries to Turkey, Greece, Burma and Indonesia.

From the listing above, it will be seen that a large proportion of the complete plants are being supplied to under-developed countries. In cases where such countries do not have the technical personnel to run the plant, the German Democratic Republic is in a position to appoint a team of experienced engineers and technicians who train nationals of the country concerned to run the machines and manage the entire plant. All such training teams return home as soon as the necessary staff have been trained at all levels.

All plant supplied to other countries is of course sold outright, and there is no question of any "infiltration" on the part of the German Democratic Republic into the country concerned. This is one of the main reasons why underdeveloped countries are increasingly ordering equipment in the German Democratic Republic (and of course other People's Democracies) rather than from capitalist countries, which often try to impose various conditions such as a share in the capital investment, the provision of long-term managerial staff, etc., which generally imply some form of foreign infiltration or influence.

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Britain will supply wool, cocoa, coffee and iron and steel products to the German Democratic Republic in return for fertilisers, cement and chemicals under an agreement concluded with a group of British businessmen.

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The German Democratic Republic has recently concluded a large-scale trade agreement with the Sudan, covering the supply of cement and sugar plant, mining equipment and a large range of other machinery. The Sudan will reciprocate with the supply of cotton, oil seeds, hides and other raw materials.

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A permanent trade representative of the German Democratic Republic will be posted in Rangoon, as the result of an agreement with Burma.

The details of the growing export trade of the German Democratic Republic given above, are based on reports in the October issue of GERMAN EXPORT, published by the Chamber of Foreign Trade of the German Democratic Republic. GERMAN EXPORT, a specialised trade magazine for businessmen, appears monthly in English, German, French, Spanish and Russian.

Businessmen in any part of the world who would be interested in seeing a specimen copy should write, stating which language they prefer, to:

The Publishers,
GERMAN EXPORT
Am Friedrichshain 22
Berlin NO 18
Germany.

Trade Unions Split in West Germany

A separate "Christian" Trade Union organisation was established by a group of reactionary Protestant and Catholic politicians at Dusseldorf in West Germany on October 30th. Before Hitler came to power the German trade union movement was split between Christian unions and general unions closely associated with the Social Democratic Party. After 1945 a united trade union movement, the German Trade Union Federation, was established in West Germany as a non-political union movement, which has, however, taken a progressive position of opposition to remilitarisation and renazification on several occasions.

The new move to split the trade union movement has the support of employers' federations, and the ruling Christian Democratic Party.

U. N. Visit E. Germany

Members of the United Nations Commission for Asia and the Far East toured East Germany early in November. Head of the delegation, which included scientists from Japan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, India and Burma, was Dr. Rhabesh Chandra Roy from India. In the course of their tour delegates had opportunities to study East German methods of mining and processing soft coal.

Far East Experts Confer

Sinologues and experts on Japanese and Korean history, literature and art from East and West Germany, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Holland, England and other countries met for discussions in the East Asia Institute in Leipzig, East Germany, early in October.

Stress was laid on the urgent need for international co-operation, to combine the newer approach of the Soviet Union to sinology with the wealth of experience and material available in western countries.

A committee of East and West German sinologues was set up to continue work begun in East Germany on standardising the German transcription of the Chinese script. Suggestions for publishing an international journal of sinology were also put forward.

Que se passe-t-il en Allemagne?

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Socialist Unity Party Conference Scheduled

The Third Party Conference of the Socialist Unity Party will be held at the end of March 1956, it was officially announced in Berlin. Delegates to the Conference will be elected at membership meetings in the coming months. The Conference will discuss the theme "The new situation and the policy of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany."

Under the statutes of the Socialist Unity Party, a Party Conference may be summoned at any time to discuss urgent questions of policy and tactics. It is purely a policy meeting, not to be confused with a Party Congress, which in addition to discussing policy has the task of electing the central committee and doing other organisational business.

British Actors Praise East German Theatre

"There is hardly a single theatre in Britain to compare with those we saw in Eastern Germany..." wrote British Equity actors on their return from a fortnight's tour of the German Democratic Republic in September.

"There can be no doubt that the high social and economic position of actors... and the startling concentration on theatrical and other artistic endeavour is the result of deliberate Government policy", the report states. "The annual State help to the arts in any one of the towns we visited exceeds considerably the entire annual Treasury grant to the Arts Council of Great Britain."

Members of the delegation were John Fernald, West End producer and principal of the Royal College of Dramatic Art; Ralph Truman, film and television actor, Madeleine Christie, Edinburgh actress; Charles Farrel, stage and film actor, treasurer of Actor's Equity, and Hugh Jenkins, Equity's assistant secretary.

Bonn Plans Air Raid Shelters

All new houses built in West Germany will have to have air raid shelters, under the terms of a new draft law announced by the West German cabinet. Experts estimate that rents will have to be raised by about ten percent to pay for the shelters. The law is expected to go into effect in April next year.

PRODUCTION UP AGAIN

Plan Report Shows Progress

Industrial production in the German Democratic Republic has expanded nearly 8 percent in the past year, the Plan Report for the third quarter of 1955, published in Berlin, showed.

Industrial production in the third quarter of 1955 was 7.9 percent higher than in the same quarter of 1954; productivity was up 9.3 percent, and average wages were up 3.2 percent. The report showed that there had been particularly big increases in the production of iron ore, agricultural machinery, and various chemicals, but that coal mining and electricity production were lagging behind target figures.

Production of consumer goods continued to show an improvement: the output of electrical apparatus for the household was up over 50 percent, and the production of cotton goods, furniture and musical instruments was up between 13 and 18 percent.

People were eating better too: cheese consumption rose 22 percent, fresh fish 35 percent, and fats generally—butter, margarine and lard—5 percent.

The report showed that agricultural crops had been generally successful, and that the grain harvest was 7 percent above the 1954 figure. A black spot was the potato harvest which, as in most European countries, had been adversely affected by the weather and was smaller than in 1954.

The report showed that about one fifth of the arable area of the German Democratic Republic is now cultivated by agricultural production cooperatives, and the modern agricultural methods used by these cooperatives were reflected in the fact that production figures per acre had greatly increased for most crops.

BONN BANS FRIENDSHIP

The West German authorities marked the first day of the Big Four Conference in Geneva by banning the German-Soviet Friendship Society in the province of North-Rhine Westphalia.

A large number of leading members of the Society have been sentenced to imprisonment in West Germany in the past few months on trumped up charges of "endangering the constitutional order" of the West German state. Georg Gampfer, First Secretary of the Society, was sentenced to three years imprisonment this summer by the West German High Court in Karlsruhe for alleged "preparation to commit high treason".

The 400 page indictment presented to the court was based almost entirely on magazines, books and pamphlets legally published by the Society in West Germany in the past five years. These "treasonable" documents included, in the words of the indictment, "a book on Leonardo da Vinci by two Soviet authors which is written in a materialist and atheist spirit and attacks the Catholic Church". Another point of the indictment was the fact that the Society had published a book on Goethe by Soviet authoress Marietta Shaginian.

The German-Soviet Friendship Society in West Germany, which is analogous to similar organisations in Britain, France and many other countries, has been persecuted by the West German authorities since its foundation in 1950. It has never been banned on a Federal level, though local bans have been pronounced in several provinces. In the past five years official persecution has included well over 1000 police raids on offices of the Society and the private houses of members.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

This is a good heavy issue of GERMAN REPORT—no sensations, no revelations, just straight news from the Geneva Conference and a lot of proposals and resolutions which may look very dull unless you can use your imagination and knowledge and link them up with what Germany, Europe and the whole of our world are likely to look like in two, five or ten years' time.

So let's go the whole hog and have a heavy serious notebook too. No chatty paragraphs about my garden, or what's going on in the theatre (though I must put in a rapid aside about Lucienne Boyer whom I saw and heard singing "Parlez moi d'amour" at the East Berlin variety theatre Friedrichstadt Palast last night: she can still put over the song with all her charm).

Let us instead have a look at this paper: what it is, what it is trying to do, and whether it is succeeding.

GERMAN REPORT has now been appearing for very nearly four years—this is the ninety-ninth number. There is a famous anecdote about the newspaper editor who was too lazy to write a new editorial for his paper one day, and simply inserted a notice saying: "In response to numerous requests from readers, we are reprinting the leading article which appeared yesterday". I hope that readers will not think that it is the same reason which has sent me leafing back through the files of GERMAN REPORT to see what we said in our leading article on January 18th 1952 when the first number appeared.

This is what that very first editorial said:

"Because events in Germany today are a key to the peace of the world, and because most readers in the English-speaking world have so little opportunity to read the truth about the German situation, I have decided to publish GERMAN REPORT, the first number of which you are now reading.

"Once a fortnight, GERMAN REPORT will bring you the real news about Germany, the news which most other papers suppress — the news on the regrowth of nazism, militarism and imperialism in West Germany and of the people's resistance to this on the one hand, and on the other the news about the new and better Germany, about the sinking prices and rising wages and the young people who work for peace and not for war in the German Democratic Republic . . .

"But GERMAN REPORT should not just provide you with interesting reading. We aim to provide you with facts and arguments which will serve you as ammunition in the campaign in your country against German remilitarisation, the campaign for the conclusion of a peace treaty with a unified, democratic and peaceloving Germany."

Unfortunately, the events of the intervening four years have not made it possible to revise our aims. We still have to fight against the rebirth of nazism, militarism and imperialism in West Germany, and in fact the fight has been made even more vital by the conclusion of the Paris Agreements and the subsequent steps to build a new aggressive Wehrmacht in West Germany.

And the question I have for all readers of the paper is: How successful have we been? On the question of the exposure of West German nazism and militarism we can, I think, claim some modest successes. Material on these subjects first published in GERMAN REPORT has been the basis for questions in the British House of Commons, and for evidence given to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US Senate. In addition it has been republished in hundreds of newspapers in all parts of the world.

But looking back through the 800 odd pages of the first 98 issues of GERMAN REPORT, I have a feeling that we may not have been so successful in the other aim which we set ourselves: popularisation of the fight for peace in both halves of Germany, and of the achievements of the German Democratic Republic.

We have printed plenty of articles and news items on these subjects, of course, but as I flick through the first four volumes of the paper I must say the stories which most often catch my eye are critical articles about conditions in West Germany.

That is why I am addressing myself personally here to all the many thousands of readers of the paper: we are doing our best, but to make our best even better we need your help. Most copies of GERMAN REPORT go out to countries hundreds or thousands of miles away from Berlin, and the only way in which we can find out what readers really want is from their letters. We get hundreds of letters from readers every month (the number has fallen off slightly lately: are you becoming bored with the German problem?) but we need hundreds more.

So I would ask you, when you have finished reading this page, to sit down and tell us what you think of the paper. A postcard saying "Fine, keep it put" is very good for our morale, but much more useful is the sort of letter which says: "I am a miner's wife and should like to know how my opposite number lives in East Germany. Cut down on the revelations about nazis—we all know now that West Germany is run by them. And don't bring so many statistics, nobody understands them anyway."

And while you are at it, give us the names and addresses of friends and aquaintances in your trade union branch, your local Labour Party or your church guild who are interested in international affairs and are likely to read GERMAN REPORT if we send them a few specimen copies.

Our office is up three flights of stairs (no lift), and I have warned the postman that he will have an extra-heavy sack of post to carry up in the next few weeks. So please don't let me down.

* * *

On a lighter note, here is an interesting bit of information on the reading habits of West German parliamentarians. A West German publishing house recently began the publication of a cheap multi-volume encyclopedia, each volume on a separate subject. One hundred copies of each of the first three volumes were put on sale last week in the bookshop of the West German Parliament. All copies of the volume "Sociology of Sex" were sold immediately; there was a steady sale for the economic volume "Boom and Slump"; almost no copies were sold of the third volume. "The Revolution of the Modern Arts".

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